Dear Sam (some of whose congregation may be interested it he isn't), 2/3/91
Joe (who may want more news than he gets by phone from his friends in Israel), and Dave and Gerry, who may want more and more dependable news than is available to them in their area,

When we met friends for dinner last night, the man being a Jewish ham (ham being the old self-deprecation of radio amateurs) because I'd asked him where I might receive Israli and other foreign stations he gave me the frequencies of quite a few. As soon as we were home I tuned to where he had heard Kol Israel at about that time of the day and it came in clearly. I've forgotten all the Hebrew I knew as a boy but at about 8 they switched to news in English for about 20 minutes. The precise frequency, which can interest only that with more elaborate receivers, is 6.17 megacycles. After breakfast this morning, not expecting to receive that station this time of the day (the effectivenss of short waves being much effected by day and night), I tried and was able to get a very long and quite good BBC newscast. It was on when I tuned it in after 8 and was still on news at almost 9. As the Israel news signed off, and I presume this is practise, as it used to be when I was a ham, 60 years ago, it announced other frequencies it would use than and at other hours.

As you may recall, early in the Gulf war I believed that news management by the US was obvious. That is why I asked Ron to inform me of the frequencies used. I then had more time for news than I now have. I'm using a radio I got 24 years ago to be able to receive the distant am stations on whose talk shows I was about to be by phone, so I would know how to fit in and be responsive. A repair years ago had it working fine but tuning inaccurately. So, though a young man who as a boy mowed for me when that was verboten, I have to other sets out for repair because they tune the short waves, not of interest to me when I got them for different purposes. The old one I'm using is also a bit heavy for me to lift when I'm sitting in my legs-up chair.

For any interested in getting ever so much better international news than is available, and I think that including on the Gulf war this probably includes the NYTimes, inexpensive sets are available that get the short waves. The smaller one I'm hoping can be repaired uses batteries and electric current and is only about 4" long.

BBC comes in well all over the dial. I think it probably offers the most dependable and impartial news available. It takes but little time to learn where and when they come in. A phone call or a letter-reminds me of what may interest you. will tell you.

Until the House UnAmerican committee visited the station to ask about me, when I left, I was the news and special events editor of what was then the country's second good-music station, patterned on the first, New York's WQXR. I did the early morning news and was there several hours before the station then signed on. I rewrote the AP ticker and used other sources, like the UN, to which I also gave its first voice in Washington. A few minutes before 7 a.m. sign-on there was an AP not-for-use alert, a report that Ghandi had been assassinated. I'd already given the announced the news to read but I wrote something in haste, handed it to him with the mike open, and he read it cold a few minutes after 7* before 7:05. I then forgot about the ticker, being confident that AP was fairly certain but cautious, sat down and wrote the next all-Ghandi newscast. When the announcer read it there were tears in his eyes. And I'd never heard him express any political opinion. As soon as I finished writing, and was only a few minutes for what he could read in five minutes, I phoned BBC and asked them what frequencies they used for news that time of the day. WQXW for some reason had an old short-wave set on the floor above the studios. I tuned BBC in, found some wire and connected it to the set, ran it down the stairs, found a speaker, connected it to that end, took it into the control room which prevented the sound- proof door from closing, and we aired ~~all~~ a live BBC account of the assassination from India until the quality deteriorated. (What I say above about day and night influence on signal). It was quite a journalistic coup for a small station. We beat all the network stations with the news and AP took notice of it, reporting it with kudos to me on its news ticker....I think for those of you with the interest and time you can be informed. Sam may be interested in knowing that most of what Kol Israel broadcasts is in Hebrew. Might also be useful to the young studying the language. Best,

* I scooped the whole U.S.!! I may have CONNECTED IT DIRECTLY to control panel